

THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF SKELMERSDALE



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer
of Health

for the year
1967



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SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1967

— O —

Chairman J. W. SHUFFLEBOTHAM

Vice-Chairman J. CADWELL

Chairman of the Health Committee ... T. MIDDLEHURST

Mrs. G. BIRCHALL

J. T. LATHAM

~~J. CADWELL~~ A. R. Lyon

J. LOWE

A. DAVIES

T. MOSTON

H. EDDEN

R. L. NUTTALL

J. GREEN

W. T. WESTERGREN

A. D. HARDISTY

T. WHITFIELD

Medical Officer of Health:

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H. (part-time)

(Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

T. M. C. LINDSAY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (part-time)

(Assistant Divisional Medical Officer of Health,
Lancashire County Council)

— O —

Public Health Inspector:

ALBERT LAVELLE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., CERT.I.HSG.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE

Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of Skelmersdale during 1967 — the last report before the amalgamation with Up Holland.

The health of the district remained good throughout the year, although 159 cases of infectious disease were notified, of which 101 were cases of measles.

The birth rate was 19.7 per 1,000 population, compared with 21.6 last year. The general death rate at 15.6 per 1,000 population showed an increase on the figure of 12.3 for 1966. The infant mortality rate was 27 per 1,000 live birth, a considerable increase on the exceptionally low figure of 10.9 recorded last year. In actual figures, however, this represents an increase from 2 to 6 infant deaths. There were again no maternal deaths during the year.

Housing conditions continue to improve. 206 new houses were completed during the year, of which 62 were built by the local authority. 35 houses were demolished as unfit for human habitation under the Housing Acts, whilst a further 255 were found to be unfit, but capable of being rendered fit.

Many changes will be seen in the district as it grows into the New Town after amalgamation with Up Holland and there will be changes in personnel — both Councillors and Officers. I would, therefore, like at this time to pay tribute to all the members of Skelmersdale Council who, over the years, have taken so much interest in Health matters and whose wisdom and guidance have been of great help to me over the years. I would also thank the chief officials for their ready help and friendliness at all times. I would especially mention Mr. Lavelle's outstanding services as Public Health Inspector and to whom much of the success of the extensive slum clearance and housing improvements in Skelmersdale are due. Whilst much regretting his leaving the Health Department, I know that his drive and enthusiasm will augur well for the success of the New Authority's Housing Department, of which he will take charge.

Finally, in thanking the Chairman and members for their support during the year, may I express my best wishes to those members now leaving local government and my pleasure in continuing to work with those elected to the New Authority.

I am, your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD
Medical Officer of Health

June, 1968

Area of the District: 1,942 acres.

Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate at mid-1967): 9,390.

Number of inhabited dwellings according to Rate Book at end of 1967: 3,153.

Rateable Value: £317,797.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £1,068.

— o —

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1967

	Male	Female	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	117	106	223
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	—	—	19.7
Illegitimate live birth rate per cent. of total live births	—	—	4.5
STILL BIRTHS	2	1	3
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	—	—	13
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	119	107	226
DEATHS	43	52	95
Death rate per 1,000 population	—	—	15.6
INFANT DEATHS	5	1	6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	27
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births legitimate	—	—	28.1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live birth illegitimate	—	—	—
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	—	—	22.4
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first week)	—	—	17.9
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births (still births and deaths under 1 week combined)	—	—	31
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	—	—	—
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	—	—	—

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Births

There were 223 births registered in the Urban District during the year, of which 117 were male and 106 female and including 10 illegitimate births, of which 4 were male and 6 female. The adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population (mid-1967) (comparability factor 0.83) was 19.7 compared with 21.6 in 1966.

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the Urban District during the year was 95, of this number 43 were male and 52 female. This was an increase of 15 on the figure of 1966. The crude death rate for the year was 10.1 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.54) was 15.6 per 1,000 population, compared with 12.3 in 1966.

Infant Mortality

There were no deaths during the year due to Zymotic or Epidemic diseases. There were 6 deaths of infants under 1 year, and infantile mortality rate of 27.0 per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the district during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH
IN THE SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT, 1967

— 0 —

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Minigococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Cancer	8	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	2	8
Heart diseases	19	17
Other circulatory diseases	—	4
Influenza	—	2
Pneumonia	4	2
Bronchitis	2	—
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	7
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
TOTAL	43	52

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens of a simple nature, throat swabs, etc., are sent for examination to the E. M. S. Pathological Laboratory at Ormskirk and District General Hospital. All other specimens are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance Services are provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

A Congregational Schoolroom in Witham Road is utilised every Wednesday morning as a Clinic Welfare Centre and Minor Ailments Clinic, under the direction of Dr. T. M. C. Lindsay and Mrs. Nicholson and Miss Peate of the Lancashire County Council. An Immunisation Clinic is held on the fourth Wednesday afternoon in each month at 2-15 p.m. on the same premises by Dr. Lindsay. A chiropody clinic is held each Friday and is a free service for old aged pensioners.

A new clinic has been opened at 50/52 Tarlswood where a child welfare clinic is held each Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. under the direction of Dr. J. M. Allan, General Practitioner, with Mrs. Nicholson and Miss Peate, Lancashire County Council, in attendance.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals in the town.

The Ormskirk and District General Hospital and the Wigan Hospitals provide ample accommodation for all patients from Skelmersdale.

Infectious cases are admitted to the New Hall Isolation Hospital, Scarisbrick.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The township is supplied with water by the West Lancashire Water Board.

Water is pumped from two boreholes some 750 feet deep at Scarth Hill into adjoining water towers from which it gravitates through a 7in. main to the district. This pumping station formerly belonged to the Council who sold it to the Southport and District Water Board in 1907. The West Lancashire Water Board have become responsible for both supply and distribution. Many lengths of old mains have been renewed. The water supply is of the highest standard of organic bacterial purity.

Due to the Council's post war building programme and modernisation of existing old houses, the pressure in the highest parts of the town is poor at certain periods of the week, but the position has improved since the installation of a booster pump on the 7in. supply mains.

Sewage Disposal

A new sewage works built outside the area to serve the whole of the New Town came into operation during the year and when all the branch sewers have been extended from the trunk sewer the whole of Skelmersdale will benefit. Berry Street sewage works ceased to operate as such in October subject to its use for storm overflow purposes. It is anticipated that the Pennylands sewage works will cease to operate early in 1968.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Privy Middens — Nil.

Number of pail closets — 33. Number converted to W.C.'s — Nil.

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) — Nil.

Number of moveable ashbins — 3,153.

Number of houses on water carriage systems — 3,153.

Number of water closets (including schools, etc.) — 3,120.

HOUSING

Number of new dwellings erected during the year:

(i) By the Local Authority	62
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	144

1 *Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	515
--	-----

(b) Number of inspections formal or informal made for the purpose	1435
---	------

(2)	Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a)	Number found during the year	53
(b)	Number (or estimated number) at end of year	100
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit	255

2 *Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957):*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished during the year:	
(a)	Unfit Houses	35
(b)	Other Houses	Nil
(2)	Number of persons displaced	141
(3)	Number of families displaced	71

3 *Houses not included in Clearance Areas:*

(1) Houses demolished or closed during year.

Housing Act, 1957:—

- (i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ...
- (ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force
- (iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)

No. of Persons Houses Displaced
Nil . Nil
2 Nil
Nil Nil

(2) Repairs during the year:

(a)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	234
(b)	Public Health Acts — action after service of informal notice houses in which defects were remedied	Nil
(i)	By Owners	Nil
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Housing Act, 1936, action after service of informal notice (sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) houses made fit:	
(i) By Owners	Nil
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954: Houses re-constructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil
 4 <i>Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957):</i>	
(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil
 5 <i>House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 — Improvement Grants, etc.:</i>	
Action during year — applications approved	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASE STATISTICS

SCARLET FEVER

*Table showing incidence and mortality from Scarlet Fever
1958-1967*

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Cases	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	4	1	12
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1967

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
							1	

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment for Tuberculosis is administered by the appropriate department of the Lancashire County Council.

The following table shows the number, monthly distribution and nature of cases of Infectious Diseases coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1967

REMOVED TO HOSPITAL											
TOTALS											
DECEMBER											NOVEMBER
OCTOBER											NOVEMBER
SEPTEMBER											
AUGUST											
JULY											
MAY											
MARCH											
APRIL											
FEBRUARY											
JANUARY											
ANTHRAX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SMALLPOX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SCARLET FEVER	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
DIPHTHERIA	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ENTERIC FEVER	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PARA-TYPHOID FEVER	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ACUTE PNEUMONIA	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MALARIA	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DYSENTERY	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MEASLES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ERYSIPelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	2	—	1	—	66	10	9
						—	38	17	—	12	3
						—	159	6			

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1967

Notifiable Diseases	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED												HOSPITAL	
	Under 1 Year		1		2		3		4		5-10 11-15 16-20 21-35 36-45 46-65 over 65		Total Deaths	Total Deaths in Hospital
	Total Cases at all ages	Deaths removed to Hospital	Total Cases at all ages	Deaths removed to Hospital	Total Cases at all ages	Deaths removed to Hospital	Total Cases at all ages	Deaths removed to Hospital	Total Cases at all ages	Deaths removed to Hospital	Total Cases at all ages	Deaths removed to Hospital	Total Deaths	Deaths in Hospital
S <small>MAL</small> P <small>OX</small>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S <small>CAR</small> LLET F <small>EV</small> ER	12	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	3	—	6	—	—	1
D <small>IPH</small> ITHERIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
E <small>NT</small> ERIC F <small>EV</small> ER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P <small>ARA</small> -T <small>Y</small> PHOID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F <small>EV</small> ER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P <small>U</small> E <small>P</small> ERAL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P <small>Y</small> REXIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
E <small>RY</small> SIP <small>E</small> LAS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P <small>OLI</small> OMYELITIS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A <small>C</small> UTE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P <small>NE</small> UMONIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
M <small>EN</small> INGOCOCCAL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I <small>NF</small> ECTION	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
M <small>E</small> ASLES	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W <small>HOO</small> PING C <small>OUGH</small>	45	5	—	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	8	13	—	2
F <small>OOD</small> P <small>OIS</small> ONING	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
D <small>YS</small> ENTERY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
A <small>NT</small> HRAX	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
O <small>PH</small> THALMIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
N <small>E</small> ONATORUM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P <small>ULM</small> ONARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T <small>U</small> BERCULOSIS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
N <small>ON</small> -P <small>ULM</small> ONARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T <small>U</small> BERCULOSIS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	159	16	22	23	28	29	40	—	1	—	—	—	1	6
														1

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notice	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	44	45	1	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
Total	44	45	1	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Sect. 1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sect. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sect. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floor (Sect. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (Sect. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1967

It is pleasing to note that the new sewage works came into operation during 1968.

The totally inadequate and out-dated Berry Street sewage works was a source of considerable nuisance and its replacement was long overdue.

Ramblers will be able to enjoy the pleasant walk nearby without the old sewage works detracting from the pleasure of it.

The ultimate benefit to both the New and Old Towns will be immense.

HOUSING

(a) *Improvements*

3 applications for standard improvement grants were approved during the year.

(b) *Repairs*

Extensive repairs have been carried out to rented properties throughout the area as a result of both formal and statutory notices.

(c) *Slum Clearance*

35 houses were demolished during the year. The Smith Street Compulsory Purchase Order was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation during the year.

FOOD

(a) *Premises*

Occupiers maintained their premises in a satisfactory condition.

(b) *Unsound Food*

The following articles, unfit for human consumption, have been surrendered by retailers:

	Food	Weight
Tinned	Ham	44lbs.
Tinned	Beef	6lbs.
Tinned	Vegetables	8lbs.
Tinned	Fruit	18lbs.

(c) *Adulteration of Food*

The following report has been submitted by the Lancashire County Council whose sampling officer took the following samples in Skelmersdale for analysis by the Public Analyst:

A total of 46 samples was obtained comprising 23 milks (of which three were Channel Island milk) and 23 others as follows:

2 Bread	1 Headache Powder
2 Flour Confectionery	2 Whisky
1 Cheese	2 Rum
1 Honey	1 Brandy
2 Butter	1 Gin
2 Tomatoes	1 Pork Sausage
1 Lettuce	4 Cough Mixtures

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

(d)

HAWKERS OF FOOD

The inspection of hawkers' vehicles has continued in an endeavour to maintain a good standard with which any new hawkers will be expected to comply prior to their registration.

(e)

ICE CREAM

There are 18 registered premises for the storage and sale of ice cream.

All the retailers maintained their premises in a satisfactory condition during the year and each have satisfactory washing facilities including a constant supply of hot and cold water.

Six ice cream samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were reported satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

Routine inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were carried out by the Rodent Operator, private premises were treated free of cost and a charge made for business premises. No major infestations were discovered. Maintenance treatments for the destruction of rats in sewers were carried out and there was no evidence of serious infestations.

Attention was also paid to the Council's sewage work and refuse tip.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service is carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

The paper sack system of refuse collection has been introduced and has been received favourably by the first residents of the New Town. A small manual trailer was designed for use with two collectors specifically for collection of paper sacks on the New Town Site, owing to the inaccessibility of the pedestrian precincts, and is proving satisfactory. Paper sacks are brought in loads of approxi-

mately 20 to a point to which the Council's refuse freighter can gain access. This service is approximately twice as fast as the normal bin collection. A plastic bin liner scheme serving 100 houses was introduced during the year and has proved so successful as to justify a possible extension of the scheme.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

There are 80 shops on the register and 152 visits were made during the year.

Duties under the Shops Act, 1950, relating to the employment of young persons and welfare facilities were carried out on behalf of the County Council.

OFFICES AND SHOPS ACT, 1963

New registration covering conditions in offices and shops has involved additional work in the department. Certain important safety conditions for the personnel have been introduced.

SCHOOLS

The school kitchens, dinner service rooms and sanitary accommodation at each of the six schools have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Defects found have been reported to the Education Authority and have been rectified.

All schools have now been provided with a constant supply of hot and cold water to wash-hand basins.

FACTORIES

Routine visits have been made to the factories in the district and any defects found have been remedied.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Council made their No. 3 Smoke Control Area and submitted it for confirmation by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The No. 2 Order was confirmed.

A number of visits have been made to the factories with boiler houses in the district. Smoke emission has been reduced to the permissible minimum.

The erection of the new factories on the Gillibrands site has involved the fixing of chimney heights by the Urban District Council to ensure that the ground level concentration of sulphur dioxide gas in the vicinity is kept to a level well below that considered injurious to health.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	515
Number of inspections made for the above purpose	1435
Visits to factories and work places	45
Visits to food premises	71
Visits re infectious diseases	2
Visits to schools	6
Visits to licensed premises	14
Visits to shops	153
Visits to hawkers' vehicles	28
Visits re rodent control	41
Number of informal notices served	254
Number of informal notices complied with	237
Number of Statutory notices served	17
Number of Statutory notices complied with	17

